

Dear Consul,

I just received an email that says it is from the National Visa Center in Portsmouth, NH, stating that I have won the Diversity Visa Lottery. It says that I need to contact my "visa processing agent" – a Mr. David Tan – by Dec. 25th, to claim my visa, and that I need to send him \$890 USD by Western Union, Money Gram or bank transfer. Is this for real?? I applied for a Tourist visa from your Embassy in the past, but never thought I applied for the Diversity Visa. What's going on?

Loretta from St. Joseph

Dear Loretta,

| Thanks for writing. We have received a number of inquiries about this topic. Please do NOT send any money to anyone soliciting money in the name of the Diversity Visa lottery. Any such request is definitely a scam!

| The U.S. Government Diversity Visa Lottery gives you a chance to immigrate to the United States. And despite what the email you received implies, there is only one way to enter the DV lottery, and that is by submitting an Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form (E-DV Entry Form) during the lottery registration period, which runs from October to November each year (this year, the exact dates for registration were from October 5 to November 3.) This visa entry form is only accessible at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>. If you did not register in this way, you CANNOT win the visa lottery.

There is NO fee to enter the DV Lottery. You do not need an agent or an attorney to complete your entry or application. DV lottery winners pay fees ONLY to the U.S. Embassy on the day of the visa interview. Even if you have won the lottery, do not pay fees to anyone but the U.S. Embassy.

| Once the application process has closed, the Diversity Visa computer randomly selects individuals from among all qualified entries. Applicants must then check the status of their entries online to determine if their entries were selected, using the Entry Status Check function on www.dvlottery.state.gov, available from May 2, 2011. If selected, the Entry Status Check function will provide next-step instructions to selectees. Every selectee is then invited to go through an interview process at the U.S. Embassy to see if they qualify to immigrate to the U.S. Winning the Visa Lottery does not guarantee that you will automatically be granted an immigrant visa. There are certain conditions you must meet in order to qualify, and all of this will be determined before you can fly to the U.S. You can always visit <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> for more information.

Please visit our website at <http://trinidad.usembassy.gov> for more information on immigrant or non-immigrant visas, or information on other ways of travelling to the United States. If you have any additional questions about any aspect of the visa application process, please write to us at ConsularPOS@state.gov.

| We hope this has been helpful.